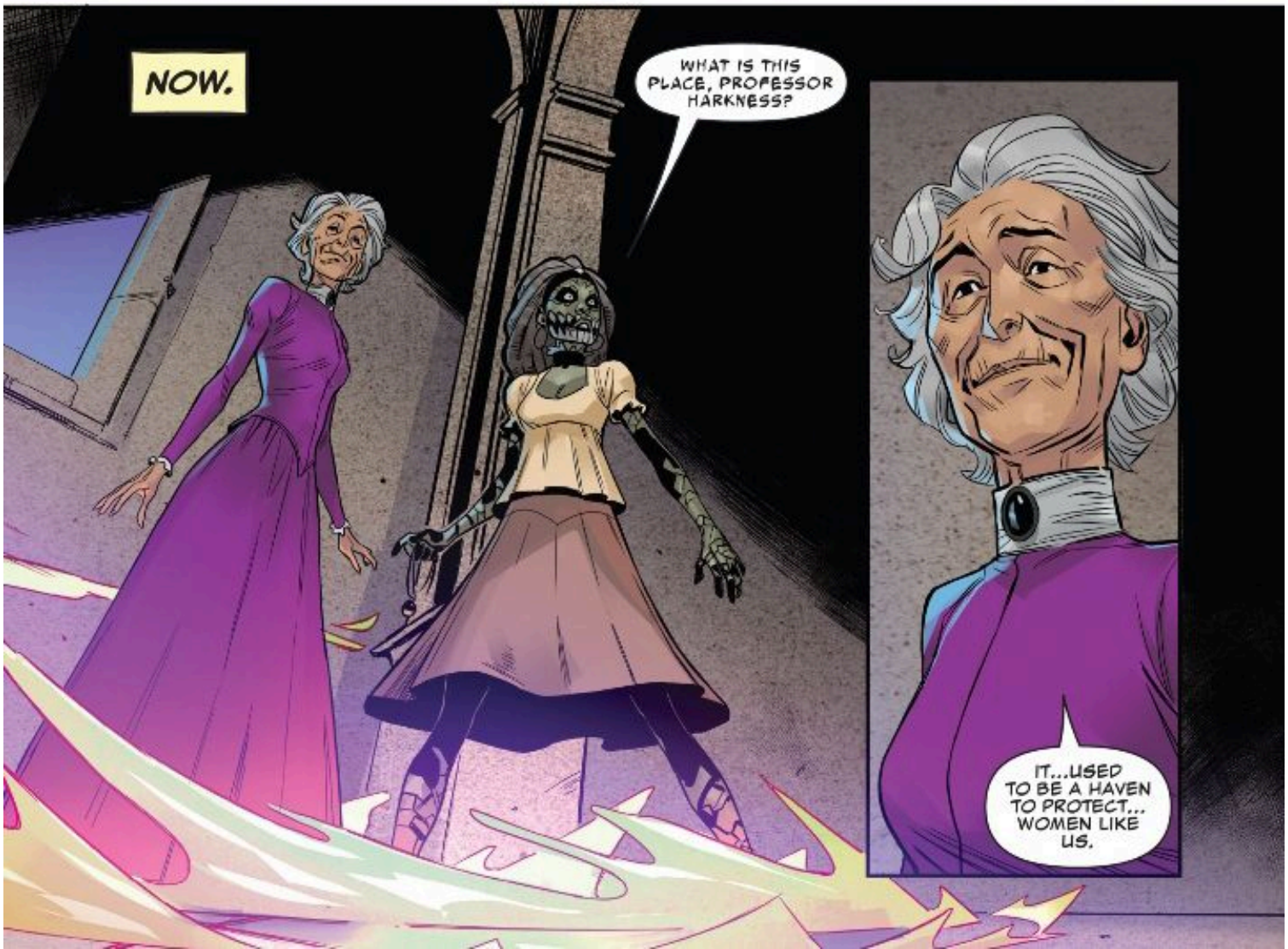
MIDNIGHT SUN
D.NA 6.22
MARVEL
SACKS · ZAGARIA · FABELA
2

TRANSIA, 1428.
NEAR WUNDAGORE MOUNTAIN.
<HURRY, STORM THEIR KEEP!>*
<BURN THE WITCHES WHO HAVE CORRUPTED THAT PLACE!>
*TRANSLATED FROM OLD TRANSIAN.
WE ARE OUT OF TIME.
AGATHA...

ISSS THISSS MY PRIZE?
I FIND IT ACCEPTABLE.
AAAAHHH!
CORINA! NOOO!!!


NOW.
WHAT IS THIS PLACE, PROFESSOR HARKNESS?
IT...USED TO BE A HAVEN TO PROTECT... WOMEN LIKE US.

NO OFFENSE... BUT IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE MUCH OF A HAVEN.
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE MUCH OF ANYTHING ANYMORE.
THE HAVEN HAS SEEN BETTER DAYS, ZOE.
IF WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE, THAT ALL MAGIC USERS SAW THE SAME VISION--
--THAT MEANS I...I MIGHT START AN APOCALYPSE.*
IT...IT SURE SEEMED SO REAL, EVEN TO ME.
*LAST ISSUE! --TOM
SO, WHY DID YOU SAVE ME?
BECAUSE I'VE SEEN THIS ALL BEFORE.
AND YOU WILL NEED MY HELP TO SURVIVE--

"--ALL THE DANGER THAT'S COMING YOUR WAY."
STRANGE ACADEMY, NEW ORLEANS.
DOCTOR DOOM IS NOT IN THE HABIT OF REPEATING HIMSELF.
TURN OVER ZOE LAVEAU... OR DIE!
ZZZZAAAAACK
I ALREADY TOLD YOU-- SHE AIN'T HERE.
BUT WE'RE MORE THAN HAPPY TO KEEP YOU ENTERTAINED.
SPEAK FOR YOURSELF.
SO, THIS IS THE INFAMOUS DOCTOR DOOM. SHOULD I BE IMPRESSED?
CAREFUL, KUSHALA. HE'S ALMOST AS FORMIDABLE AS HE THINKS HE IS.

SCRUNCH
BAH, YOUR FERAL ATTACK IS BENEATH ME, WOLVERINE...
LEAVE THIS FIGHT TO YOUR BETTERS.
THOOM
IT SEEMS ARROGANT MEN ARE NOT JUST A RELIC OF MY TIME.
VZZUUUM
AH, YOU MUST BE ONE OF THE LESSER GHOST RIDERS...
...I'VE VANQUISHED QUITE A NUMBER OF YOU OVER THE YEARS.

VZYYYUUHHHH
GAAA!
HE'S TURNED MY DEMON FIRE AGAINST ME.
AAAAHHH!
GET THEM TO THE LIBRARY! THE PROTECTION SPELLS ARE STRONGEST THERE.
CONSIDER THE "NO RUNNING IN THE HALLWAY" RULE LIFTED.
I JUST HAD TO SEND THE STAFF OF ONE INTO SPACE, DIDN'T I?*
WITHOUT IT, THERE'S NO SISTER GRIMM, JUST PLAIN NICO MINORU.
MAY BE FUN AT PARTIES. BUT NOT SO MUCH AT THROWDOWNS WITH SUPER VILLAINS.
*SEE RUNAWAYS (VOL. 5) #38! AND EVERY ISSUE OF THAT SERIES BECAUSE IT ROCKS! --TOM
AAAAHHH!
AH, MAGIK. YOUR INFERNAL ENERGIES SEEM DIMINISHED TO MY EYES.
LOOK AT ILLYANA GO. FEARLESS.
I DON'T DESERVE TO BE PART OF THIS TEAM...OR WHATEVER IT IS.
KERRANNGGG
AND WHAT WILL YOUR EYES TELL YOU ABOUT MY GIANT, POINTY SWORD--
--WHEN I GOUGE THEM OUT OF THEIR SOCKETS?!

NICO! ZELMA! THIS WAY!
OUR FIRST RESPONSIBILITY IS TO GET THE CHILDREN TO SAFETY.
THOSE FOUR SEEM LIKE THEY CAN HANDLE DOOM UNTIL REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVE.
THIS IS MAKING ME MISS MY LIBRARY JOB, DOCTOR VOODOO!
BEEN DYING TO SEE HOW FAR I CAN STICK THIS SWORD UP YOUR--
SHUNK
GAARRGHHH!
YOU SHOULD STICK... TO FIGHTING VAMPIRES.
FKOOSH
IF ONLY I HAD A WAY TO--
OOOOH! THAT WILL DO NICELY.

WE'RE SPINNING OUR WHEELS FIGHTING HIM ONE AT A TIME--
--NOW LET'S SHOW HIM WHAT WE CAN DO TOGETHER.
FOUR AGAINST ONE... I WOULD LIKE MY ODDS.
BUT I GROW TIRED OF PLAYING GAMES.
DOOMBOTS... ATTACK!!!
"AT LEAST I KNOW MY FRIENDS AT STRANGE ACADEMY ARE SAFE--"

--AS LONG AS I'M NOT THERE.
I SAW THE DANGER I'M GOING TO POSE. I COULDN'T TAKE IT IF I CAUSED MY FRIENDS' SUFFERING.
THAT'S ENOUGH WHINING, MS. LAVEAU.
I BELIEVE I HAVE BEEN MORE THAN PATIENT UP TO THIS POINT.
BUT YOU ARE A POWERFUL WITCH FROM AN ANCIENT AND POWERFUL BLOODLINE.
YES, YOU MAY ALSO BE A PART OF A MAJOR APOCALYPSE THAT WILL WIPE OUT ALL NON-MAGIC USERS OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH.
BUT THAT IS NO JUSTIFICATION FOR SELF-PITY.
HOW--
--HOW DO YOU KNOW EXACTLY HOW THIS APOCALYPSE IS SUPPOSED TO GO?
THE VISION WAS JUST A JUMBLE OF SCARY IMAGES TO ME.
LET'S JUST SAY PAST EXPERIENCE.
WAIT...ARE THOSE BEIGNETS? THEY'RE MY FAVORITE!
I HAVE BEEN OBSERVING YOU FOR QUITE SOME TIME.
"WHERE DID YOU GET THEM FROM, MS. HARKNESS?"
"HAVEN'T YOU HEARD OF TAKEOUT, ZOE?
"ONE OF THE FEW POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS OF THE PAST CENTURY."
WHY ARE YOU SO CALM?
EVERYONE ELSE SEEMS TO SEE ME AS SOME KIND OF MONSTER.

I HAVE LIVED A LONG TIME. A VERY LONG TIME. AND I HAVE SEEN MANY GREAT CHANGES OVER THAT LIFETIME.
BUT SOME THINGS DO NOT CHANGE. LIKE THE HATRED AND PERSECUTION WOMEN WITH OUR GIFTS HAVE FACED FROM MEN WITH SMALLER... IMAGINATIONS.
"SO WE, THE COVEN, INVOKED A DEMON LORD NAMED VALTORR--IT HAS GRANTED A HUNDRED GENERATIONS OF SORCERERS THE USE OF ITS POWERS.
"MISTS THAT COULD BLIND OR SEDATE, SILENCE OR BURN, DEPENDING ON WHO WAS DOING THE ASKING.
LET THE VAPORS OF VALTORR ASSAULT HIM!
"EACH TIME VALTORR WAS ENTREATED, THOSE GIFTS WERE GIVEN FREELY. BUT IF YOU LEARNED ANYTHING IN MY CLASS, IT'S THAT MAGIC IS NEVER FREE. THERE IS ALWAYS A COST.
"IF A LITTLE WISP OF ITS POWER COULD BE SO OVERWHELMING AND CORROSIVE...IMAGINE WHAT VALTORR COULD DO IF INVITED HERE, IF IT MADE ITSELF AT HOME HERE.
"THAT...MONSTER...IN OUR VISION DIDN'T LOOK LIKE THE VALTORR I REMEMBER. BUT I WOULD RECOGNIZE THAT PRESENCE ANYWHERE."
I MADE A HORRIBLE MISTAKE THAT DESTROYED SOMEONE I CARED FOR... AND, IF THAT VISION IS TO BE BELIEVED, MAY ULTIMATELY COST EVERYTHING.
SO WILL YOU HELP ME...FIX THAT MISTAKE?
I'M IN.

AND I THOUGHT ONE OF HIM WAS INSUFFERABLE.
LESS GRIPING, MORE STABBING.
YEAH, YEAH. HAVE I MENTIONED HOW MUCH I HATE THIS MAGIC STUFF?
MAYBE ONCE OR TWICE.
I HAD HOPED THE FUTURE WOULD PROVE LESS... CHAOTIC...THAN MY TIME.
BUT IT SEEMS--
--EVIL IS NEVER OUT OF FASHION.
WOOSH
WOOSH
WOOSH
AAAHHH!

REAL DOOM IS OVER HERE... I CAN SMELL 'IM.
LAVENDER? REALLY?
GOT LUCKY WITH THAT SUCKER "PUNCH."
WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.
SHWACK
UNNGHH!
IS THAT SO?
WHAM

HEY, MR. VON DOOM. GOT A SEC?
SEE, I TEACH IN THIS SCHOOL.
AND I DON'T TAKE KINDLY TO YOU THREATENING MY STUDENTS.
SO HERE'S A FREE LESSON FOR YOU. THIS LITTLE BEAUTY IS THE AXE OF ANGARRUUMUS, DONATED FOR USE IN MAGICAL WEAPONS 101 BY THE LATE, GREAT DOCTOR STRANGE.
WE LIKE TO IMPRESS THE FRESHMEN BY SHOWING THEM HOW IT CAN CUT THROUGH ANYTHING... INCLUDING A NAPPING STUDENT'S DESK.
NICO MINORU, YOU ARE ALMOST AS ANNOYING AS YOUR PARENTS WERE.
BUT I SEE YOU DO NOT HAVE YOUR FAMILY'S STAFF. AND WITHOUT THAT, YOU ARE... INSIGNIFICANT.
YOU SURE KNOW HOW TO MAKE A GIRL FEEL APPRECIATED.
TOSS AWAY THAT AXE BEFORE YOU HURT YOURSELF.
OKAY.
YOU MISSED.
WHOOSH
WHUMP
SHE DIDN'T MISS.

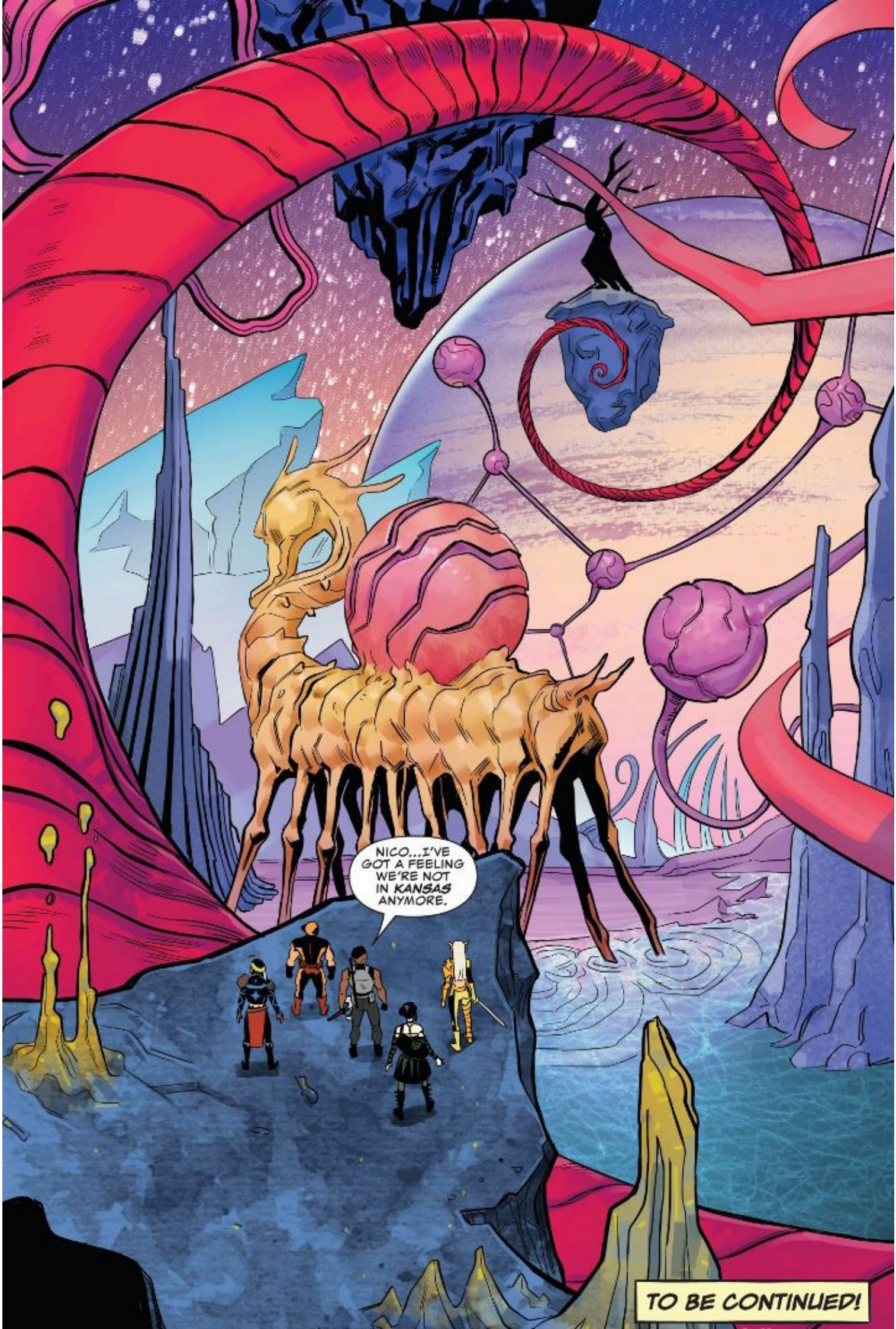
KERRRRRRAAAGGGG
UNNGGGGHHH!
ENOUGH! TELL ME WHERE YOU ARE HIDING ZOE LAVEAU--
--OR DIE.
WHAM
UNNN!
WHAM
OOOFFF!
CHOOM
EITHER WAY, DOOM WILL TRIUMPH.
KRUCH
YOU... PLANNING...TO TALK US TO DEATH?
KRAK

THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE FOR THE MERCY OF A QUICK DEATH.
WHERE. IS. THE. GIRL?
ZZZZAPPPP
I WAS JUST WONDERING THE SAME THING.
CRASSHHHH
BOOOM
NNNNNN.
YOU.
YOU DO NOT HAVE THE FORTITUDE TO DO WHAT MUST BE DONE.
TO ELIMINATE THE THREAT THAT THE VISION FORETELLS.

HELLO, VICTOR.
CLEA...
WE TALKED ABOUT THIS, I AM THE SORCERER SUPREME. YOU ARE NOT.
FINDING ZOE LAVEAU AND DEALING WITH THIS VISION IS MY RESPONSIBILITY.
YOURS, AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, IS TO SLINK BACK TO YOUR CASTLE AND WAIT AROUND FOR YOUR NEXT DEFEAT AT THE HANDS OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR.
BAH, INSOLENT FOOL!
I HAVE KILLED FOR MUCH LESS OFFENSE.
WHAT A COINCIDENCE. SO HAVE I.
SEEMS LIKE YOU'VE RUN OUT OF DOOMBOTS.
SO, WHAT'S IT GOING TO BE, BUB?

YOUR IGNORANCE OF THE COMING DANGERS IMPERILS US ALL.
CRACKLE
WHAT A CHARMER.
AS FOR YOU FIVE, I APPRECIATE YOUR EAGERNESS TO HELP--
--BUT YOU ARE ALREADY CAUSING TOO MUCH DAMAGE.
CLEA, TAKE IT EASY... THEY DID JUST SAVE THE SCHOOL.
AND THE EARTH THANKS THEM FOR THEIR SERVICE... BUT I'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.
OF ALL THE ARROGANT...
YOU SAW THE VISION, SAME AS THE REST OF US. YOU KNOW THAT, FOR WHATEVER REASON, WE HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IF THIS IS INDEED AN APOCALYPSE BREWING!
OUR PRESENCE IN THAT DREAM CAN'T BE A COINCIDENCE.
SO IF YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING TO SHUT US OUT--
YOU BRING UP A VERY GOOD POINT--

--YOU FIVE WERE RIGHT THERE IN THE VISION TOO.
IN THE NAME OF ALL THAT'S HOLY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING, CLEA?
I AM DOING WHAT I MUST AS SORCERER SUPREME--
VZ ZXYUYUMM
--MAKING THE DIFFICULT DECISIONS IN ORDER TO PROTECT THIS WORLD.
WAIT, YOU DON'T HAVE TO--
--DO THIS?
SHE APPARENTLY BELIEVES THAT SHE DID.
TO TAKE US OUT OF THE BATTLE... ON THE OFF CHANCE THAT IT CAN CHANGE THE FORETOLD EVENTS. I PROBABLY WOULD HAVE DONE THE SAME THING.
YEAH? WELL, I CAN FORETELL AN EPIC STABBING.
MAGIK, 'PORT US BACK SO I CAN--
THAT'S JUST IT, LOGAN... I CAN'T!
MY POWERS DON'T SEEM TO WORK HERE.
UH, PEOPLE, WHERE ARE WE?


NICO...I'VE GOT A FEELING WE'RE NOT IN KANSAS ANYMORE.
TO BE CONTINUED!